formulate a new telecommunication policy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir. The policy is under consideration of Government.

(b) The policy proposes to provide guidelines for development and operations of Telecom. services under the Ministry of Communications.

**Loss of Life and Property during Punjab Bandh**

6912. SHRI C.P. MUDALAGIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Bandh on August 14 and 15, 1991 caused loss of life and property in the State;

(b) if so, the number of persons/security force personnel killed and the extent of loss caused to property during the bandh; and

(c) the number of extremists arrested/killed during the bandh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (c). According to the available information, 16 persons including policemen were killed during the terrorists violence on August 14-15, 1991. Some incidents of arson of vehicles and explosion of railway track were also reported. Nine terrorists were reported to have been killed and eight others arrested during the same period.

[*Translation*]

**Freedom Fighters Pension to Soldiers and Officers of Indian National Army**

6913. PROF. PREM DHUMAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the soldiers and officers of Indian National Army are being paid Freedom Fighters' pension;

(b) if so, whether they are being paid dearness, allowance also;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (d). Indian National Army personnel who fulfil the eligibility criteria laid down under the Central Pension Scheme, are eligible for pension. Pension is paid as a token of 'Samman' at lumpsum rates as decided by the Government from time to time. There is no provision for payment of dearness allowance in the Scheme.

**Alleged Bungling in R.M.S. Department of Varanasi and Mughal Sarai**

6914. SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some complaints regarding bungling in parcels and tampering with Money Orders and insured envelops at the Railway Mail Service Department in Varanasi and Mughal Sarai had been received;

(b) if so, the details of the complaints received since 1986; and